

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a microlens array comprising:
a first step of bringing a lens side of a microlens array substrate having a plurality of lenses formed thereon into close contact with a flat surface of a master plate, in which one surface is said flat surface, with a light transmitting layer precursor therebetween;

a second step of pressing said light transmitting layer precursor with said flat surface of said master plate to disperse said light transmitting layer precursor over said plurality of lenses formed on said microlens substrate;

a ~~third~~^{second} step of curing said light transmitting layer precursor to form a light transmitting layer; and

a ~~fourth~~^{third} step of releasing said master plate from said light transmitting layer so that said light transmitting layer includes a substantially flat surface.

2. (Original) The method for fabricating the microlens array according to claim 1 further comprising a step of forming at least one of a black matrix, an electrode, and an alignment layer on said light transmitting layer.

3. (Original) The method for fabricating the microlens array according to claim 1 further comprising a step of depositing a protective coating on said light transmitting layer.

4. (Original) The method for fabricating the microlens array according to claim 3 further comprising a step of forming at least one of a black matrix, an electrode, and an alignment layer on said protective coating.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for fabricating the microlens array according to claim 1, wherein said light transmitting layer precursor includes a substance which can be cured by applying energy.

6. (Original) The method for fabricating the microlens array according to claim 5, wherein said energy is at least one of light and heat.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for fabricating the microlens array according to claim 1, wherein said light transmitting layer precursor is made of a resin.

8. (Previously Presented) A microlens array fabricated by the method according to claim 1.

9. (Original) An optical device having the microlens array according to claim 8.

10. (Original) The optical device according to claim 9, wherein the optical device is a display device having a light source for radiating light toward said microlens array.

11. (Original) The optical device according to claim 9, wherein the optical device is an imaging device having an image pick-up device that light focussed by said microlens array enters.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for fabricating a microlens array comprising:

forming a plurality of microlenses on a substrate;

disposing a light transmitting layer precursor onto said substrate;

disposing a flat reinforcing plate onto said light transmitting layer precursor to disperse said light transmitting layer precursor over said microlenses of said substrate;

curing said light transmitting layer precursor in order to form a light transmitting layer; and

removing said reinforcing plate from said light transmitting layer so that said light transmitting layer contains a flat surface.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)